

00820

1971/04/27

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~TOP SECRET~~

April 27, 1971

Major General Vernon A. Walters
Senior U. S. Military Attache
American Embassy
Paris, France
APO New York 09777

Dear Vernon:

Mr. David McManis of Dr. Kissinger's staff will deliver to you, together with this letter, two documents. The first (at Tab A) is a letter from Dr. Kissinger to Mr. Jean Sainteny and asks him to assist us in a sensitive matter which you will, in turn, explain to him when you deliver the letter. You should, therefore, contact Sainteny, show Henry's letter to him and ask him to arrange a private meeting between you and the Ambassador to France of the Peoples Republic of China or with some other appropriate Senior Chinese Communist representative in Paris. In the meantime, Dr. Kissinger will alert Sainteny by telephone. It is important that Mr. Sainteny merely read Henry's letter to him and that you reclaim it after he has read its contents. Hopefully, Sainteny will then arrange a private meeting between you and a designated representative of the Chinese.

The second document (at Tab B) is a note which you should subsequently deliver to the designated representative of the Peoples Republic. The contents of this note should, under no circumstances, be divulged to Mr. Sainteny and you should merely tell Sainteny that you have been instructed to deliver a note, without further explanation of its nature or content.

In sum, we visualize the scenario as follows:

-- You are to contact Mr. Sainteny who will have been alerted by Henry.

-- Allow him to read Henry's letter to him, being sure to reclaim the letter at the end of the meeting and being sure not to

~~TOP SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines
By _____, NARA, Date _____



Declassified

~~TOP SECRET~~

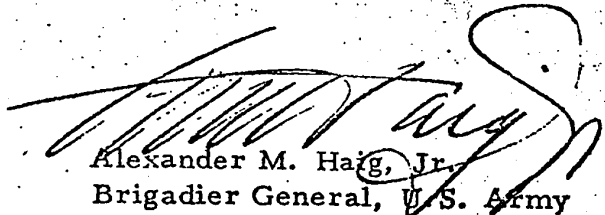
-2-

divulge the content of the second note which is destined for the Chinese representative. At this meeting, flesh out Henry's letter by telling Sainteny that we hope he can arrange a private and secure meeting alone between you and an appropriate representative of the Peoples Republic assigned to France.

-- Mr. Sainteny, in turn, will arrange an appropriate secure rendezvous between you and the Chinese representative. At this private meeting, you would then deliver the note at Tab B.

Please keep us posted on the scenario as it unfolds.

Best regards,


Alexander M. Haig, Jr.
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Deputy Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

Enclosures

~~TOP SECRET~~



Dear Jean:

Once again, the President and I would like to impose on your invaluable good offices to assist us in a matter of the greatest sensitivity. The bearer of this message, Major General Vernon Walters (our Defense Attache in Paris), will explain to you our specific need for your intercession. The project is one requiring the kind of skill and delicacy which have characterized your earlier efforts in our behalf and no one, other than the President, myself and General Walters is aware of it. Therefore, it is important that after talking to General Walters you inform no one of the nature of your conversation with him, with the exception of President Pompidou.

Both the President and I hope you will find it possible to help. It would increase our already large debt of gratitude to you.

Warm personal regards,

Mr. Jean Sainteny
204, Rue de Rivoli
Paris, France

HAK:AMH:feg:typed:4/26/71



Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library

~~TOP SECRET~~/NODIS/SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY

MESSAGE TO BE DELIVERED BY
MAJOR GENERAL VERNON A. WALTERS
TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

In the light of recent events, it seems important to have a reliable channel for communication between our two Governments.

If the Government of the People's Republic of China desires talks that are strictly confidential, the President is ready to establish such a channel directly to him for matters of the most extreme sensitivity.

Its purpose would be to bring about an improvement in US-Chinese relations fully recognizing differences in ideology. On the United States side, such a channel would be known only to the President and his Assistant for National Security Affairs, and would not be revealed to any other foreign country.

If you are interested in pursuing this proposal, initial contact should be made with the bearer of this communication, Major General Vernon A. Walters, the U.S. Defense Attache in Paris. Dr. Henry Kissinger, the President's Assistant for National Security Affairs, would be prepared to come to Paris for direct talks on US-Chinese relations with whomever might be designated by the People's Republic of China to explore the subject further.

~~TOP SECRET~~/NODIS/SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guideli
By lt NARA, Date 12/20/99



DRAFT FOLLOWS

Not used
~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY~~

Dear Jean:

Once again, the President and I would like to impose on your invaluable good offices to assist us in a matter of the greatest sensitivity. We would be most grateful if you would contact the U. S. Defense Attache in Paris, Major General Vernon Walters, at your earliest convenience. General Walters will, in turn, explain to you our specific need for your intercession. The project is one requiring the kind of skill and delicacy which have characterized your earlier efforts in our behalf and no one, other than the President, myself and General Walters is aware of it. Therefore, it is important that after talking to General Walters you inform no one of the nature of your conversation with him, with the exception of President Pompidou.

General Walters anticipates that you will be contacting him in the near future and stands ready to meet with you privately to divulge the full nature of the project. He can be reached at: 265-7400 or 265-7460 (office) or 637-4374 (home).

Both the President and I have the greatest confidence in your skill and discretion and I hope you will find it possible to again contribute your services in our behalf.



Warm personal regards,

HAK

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5

NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines

By uk, NARA, Date 12/20/94

~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY~~

DRAFT FOLLOWS

~~TOP SECRET~~/SENSITIVE/EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

Dear Jean,

We would like your help in getting a message to the Chinese Ambassador in Paris.

I have given this message to Major General Vernon Walters, the U. S. Defense Attache in our Embassy and the only ^{official} person, in addition to the President and myself, who is aware of this communication. I would very much appreciate your arranging for General Walters to meet with a senior official in the Chinese Embassy so that he can hand the message over. Please inform no one of this initiative except President Pompidou.

Thank you in advance for your customary discreet assistance.

Warm regards,

HAK

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Gui
By Lt, NARA, Date 12/20/99

~~TOP SECRET~~/SENSITIVE/EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

